

10. (Twice Amended) A method for reproducing character information from a rotatable recording medium for recording audio data, said method comprising the steps of:

reproducing information representing audio data, character information, and one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail) recorded on said rotatable recording medium, said character information being associated with said audio data;

searching said reproduced character information for a string of characters representing address information pertaining to one of (i) the URL used to obtain further information about said audio data and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail); and

displaying said character information and information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information.

REMARKS

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 USC sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Entry of this Amendment and these remarks, and the reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-13, and amended claims 1, 6 and 10 are in this application.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10, and claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-13, as presented herein, are not indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-13 on this ground be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber (U.S. Patent No.5,995,105), Aramaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,304) and Yamagami (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,025).

Amended independent claim 1 now recites “**playback means operable for reproducing information recorded on a rotatable recording medium...representing audio programs, character information associated with said programs, and one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail)...and character-string searching means for searching...for a string of characters representing address information pertaining to one of (i) the URL used to obtain program information associated with said programs and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail).” (Emphasis added).**

It is respectfully submitted that neither the portion of Reber apparently relied upon by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely “Reber”), the portion of Aramaki relied upon by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely “Aramaki”), nor the portion of Yamagami relied upon by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely “Yamagami”), appears to disclose the above-mentioned feature of amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that amended independent claim 1 is distinguishable from the proposed combination of Reber, Aramaki and Yamagami. For similar reasons, it is also believed that each of amended independent claims 6 and 10 are distinguishable from the proposed combination of Reber, Aramaki and Yamagami.

Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-13 are dependent from one of amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10. As a result, claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-13 are distinguishable from the proposed combination of Reber, Aramaki and Yamagami for at least the reasons previously described.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

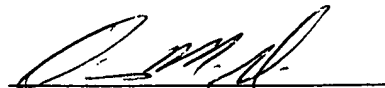
It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 and the allowance of this application with claims 1-13 are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 10 by rewriting same to the following:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for processing a playback signal, said apparatus comprising:

playback means operable for reproducing information recorded on a rotatable recording medium, said [reproduced] recorded information [including] representing audio programs, [and] character information associated with said programs, and one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail);

character-information detecting means for detecting said character information recorded in an [information control] area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means; and

character-string searching means for searching said detected character information for a string of characters representing address information pertaining to one of (i) the URL used to obtain[, from a remote source,] program information associated with said programs and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail); and

address-information generating means for generating said address information].

6. (Twice Amended) A playback-signal processing apparatus comprising:
storage means for storing information representing audio programs, character information, and one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail) reproduced from a rotatable recording medium, said character information being associated with said programs recorded on said recording medium;

search means for searching said character information for a string of characters representing address information pertaining to one of (i) the URL used to obtain[, from a remote source,] program information associated with said programs and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail); and

display means for displaying said character information and indicating information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information on a display.

10. (Twice Amended) A method for reproducing character information from a rotatable recording medium for recording audio data, said method comprising the steps of:
reproducing information representing audio data, character information, and one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail) recorded on said rotatable recording medium, said character information being associated with said audio data;

searching said reproduced character information for a string of characters representing address information pertaining to one of (i) the URL used to obtain[, from a remote source,] further information about said audio data and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail); and

displaying said character information and information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information.